

21 JUL 1999

Students

INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS AMONG REASONS BEHIND WEAK ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

KUALA TERENGGANU, July 21 (Bernama) -- The action by opposition parties to involve students with politics is among the reasons which caused Malays to lag behind in scholastic achievements, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said.

He said the opposition parties were taking the opportunity from the students temperamental attitude, making them to neglect their studies and engaged in anti government activities.

This resulted in the students being distracted from their studies and caused them to lag in academic performance, he said after chairing the state executive council meeting here today.

Yesterday in Alor Setar an emotionally overwhelmed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had to shorten his speech at a school function here today as he lamented over the ever-widening gap between the scholastic achievements of Bumiputera students and their non-Bumiputera peers.

Wan Mokhtar said Malays in tertiary education institutions should instead concentrate on their studies as they were the ones who would continue the government's efforts to develop the nation.

He said these students were actually unaware that the government's actions were meant to benefit them.

In another development he said the state government would provide computer aid to schools which bought computers on their own efforts.

"The state government will provide a computer for each of the computers purchased by the school," he said.

This was to ensure that students in the state especially those in rural areas would not be left behind in the information technology field, he added.

-- BERNAMA

sn zul